

**California Department of Health Services**  
California Delegation of U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission (BHC)  
Accomplishments Review, April 2002

Border Health Commission (BHC) coordination and implementation activities are carried out through the BHC California Outreach Office, which is integrated within the California Office of Binational Border Health.

**BHC meetings:**

- The U.S. section (BHC members of the four U.S. border states) meets approximately quarterly at the BHC central office in El Paso. Outcomes have included operational guidelines, bylaws, budget reviews, annual report to Congress, and strategic planning including Healthy Border 2010 and binational border public health Models That Work.
- Full BHC meetings (BHC members of four U.S. border states and six Mexico border states) have occurred in El Paso and Mexico City. Currently working on finalizing the bylaws and a Healthy Border 2010 status report.

**California/Baja California BHC public forums:**

- As part of a needs assessment, we coordinated one forum in El Centro for the BHC members from California and Baja California to listen to the concerns from the public health communities of Imperial and Mexicali, and another in Tijuana to hear from the communities of San Diego and Tijuana. Reports are available.

**Healthy Border 2010:** This is the BHC's binational agenda of health promotion and disease prevention. In California, the focus has been on:

- Tuberculosis: Sponsoring directly observed therapy by "promotoras" in Tijuana in cooperation with Baja California health authorities.
- Asthma: Funding support to Imperial County Health Department and partners for a) "promotoras" to educate on prevention and control, b) prevention social marketing, and c) clinical management training.
- Binational Health Committees: Funding support to the San Diego/Tijuana and Imperial/Mexicali committees on TB, HIV/STD, emergency services, immunizations, and substance abuse for their administrative coordination.

**Health education in Mexican Consulates:**

- Designing and coordinating the placing of health education and referral staff in Mexican consulates. Approval given by Mexico Secretariat of Foreign Affairs.

**Outreach and education to policymakers:**

- Development of a manual for health professionals to educate policymakers at all levels on binational border health issues.